

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR FHA PROGRAMS

FHA's description of each of the programs is included after this summary

Single Family Mortgage Insurance for One-to-Four Family Homes(section203(b)).

This is FHA's principal program, anybody can apply to it.

Benefits: Loan is backed by FHA leading to

- a) Lower rate of interest(bank knows will get money so can offer a significantly lower rate)
- b) Lower down payment(from 10% of cost of home to as little as 3%)
- c) Lengthier term of mortgage making monthly payments lower. Conventional mortgages go up to thirty years, an FHA mortgage usually has a term ~~length of 40.~~

Parameters:

- a) Key parameter is that current mortgage limit is from \$81,548 to \$160,950, depending on area. This is the way in which HUD makes sure the program serves low-to-moderate income people.
- b) For FHA insurance, prospective homeowner must pay an up-front insurance premium as well as monthly premiums. The premiums are significantly less than premiums in a private mortgage insurance firm's plan and can be financed if necessary.
- c) Loan must be made through FHA-approved lending institution.
- d) Must be planning to use home as primary place of residence.
- e) Prospective homeowner must file an application to FHA proving that they are a satisfactory credit risk and can meet the cash investment and the monthly payments. The requirements are typically less than what you would find through a private mortgage insurance company.

Reverse Mortgage for Seniors Program

This is FHA's principal program for seniors.

Benefits: In a reverse mortgage, the homeowner borrows against the equity of his existing home to then purchase a new one. The reverse mortgage does not need to be repayed until the borrower no longer lives in the home. At this point, the house is sold and the lender receives the money from the cost of the home plus accumulated interest. HUD will back the loan and thus repay any difference between the amount owed and selling price of the home. All this leads to a significantly more affordable loan plan for low-to-moderate income seniors.

Parameters: All the same parameters of the first program apply to this one as well. The same mortgage limits apply and FHA makes a specific point that it will not raise these limits for seniors. An additional requirement is that the homeowner must be a minimum of 62. Also, the premium payments to FHA are different than in Section 203(b). Seniors pay an up-front premium of 2%(of cost of home) and a yearly premium of .5%.

Indian HOME Loan Guarantee Program(Section 184)

This is the key FHA program for Native Americans. The other major program is a general HUD program that provides block grants to Indian tribes and Alaska natives who then distribute the funds for housing for the neediest in their tribe. 600 million was spent for block grants last year for this program.

The other program, section 184, provides mortgage insurance for Native Americans. It has the same parameters as other FHA programs with a few exceptions. First, the client must be either an Alaskan or Native American who plans to purchase their home on tribal lands, a tribe, or a tribally designated housing entity which, as the name implies, is an organization designated by the tribe to purchase housing for the tribe's members. Also, the payment plan to FHA is different. There is a low, fixed fee, 1% of the cost of the home, and this can be financed if necessary. Other key differences between the benefits of this program and other FHA programs include

- 1) Lower down payments: as low as 1.25% of cost of home.
- 2) Long term fixed rate financing with loan to value ratios as high as 98.75%.
- 3) Mortgage limits can be up to 150% higher than normal FHA limits. *This suggests that if we do a teacher program with FHA, the mortgage limits could perhaps be increased.*
- 4) Single close loans for construction
- 5) Borrower's creditworthiness can be demonstrated through nontraditional methods.

Veterans Administration's Loan Guaranty Program

This is the principal program for veterans and is administered primarily by VA but also by FHA. It is very similar to Section 203b(the first FHA program described) and has with a few exceptions the same parameters and benefits. The major difference is that the mortgage limit is substantially higher. In any area, the loan can be up to \$203,000. The payment plan is also different in that there is no monthly premiums to pay but rather an up-front premium of 2% of the cost of the home(the exact percentage varies slightly depending on what branch of the military the veteran served in).

The above programs covers the major FHA programs besides the Armed Services program already described. FHA does not actually have a program for farmers as I originally thought. The program is listed on FHA's website but it completely administered by the Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service(RHS). I have included in the end of the folder RHS's description of their program if you want more info about it.



HOME

FAQ

SITE TOUR

SEARCH/INDEX

E-MAIL

topics

[hud news](#)
[audience groups](#)
[own a home](#)
[rental help](#)
[homeless](#)
[your community](#)
[business](#)
[contracts](#)
[consumer info](#)
[complaints](#)
[about hud](#)
[reading room](#)
[handbooks/forms](#)
[kids](#)
[let's talk](#)
[local info](#)
[fed one-stops](#)

mortgage insurance for one-to four-family homes (section 203(b))

Summary:

Through this program, HUD's Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insures mortgages made by qualified lenders to people purchasing or refinancing a home of their own.

Purpose:

FHA's mortgage insurance programs help low- and moderate-income families become homeowners by lowering some of the costs of their mortgage loans. FHA mortgage insurance also encourages lenders to make loans to otherwise creditworthy borrowers and projects that might not be able to meet conventional underwriting requirements, by protecting the lender against loan default on mortgages for properties that meet certain minimum requirements—including manufactured homes, single-family and multifamily properties, and some health-related facilities.

Section 203(b) is the centerpiece of FHA's single-family insurance programs—the successor of the program that helped save homeowners from default in the 1930s, that helped open the suburbs for returning veterans in the 1940s and 1950s, and that helped shape the modern mortgage finance system. Today, FHA One- to Four-Family Mortgage Insurance is still an important tool through which the Federal Government expands homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers and other borrowers who would not otherwise qualify for conventional loans on affordable terms, as well as for those who live in underserved areas where mortgages may be harder to get. In FY 1997 FHA insured more than 790,000 homes, valued at almost \$60 billion, under this program. FHA currently insures a total of about 7 million loans valued at nearly \$400 billion. These obligations are protected by FHA's Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, which is sustained entirely by borrower premiums.

Type of Assistance:

This program provides mortgage insurance to protect lenders against the risk of default on loans to qualified buyers. Insured loans may be used to finance the purchase of new or existing one- to four-family housing, as well as to refinance debt. Section 203(b) has several important features:

-- Downpayment requirements can be low. In contrast to conventional mortgage products, which frequently require downpayments of 10 percent or more of the purchase price of the home, single-family mortgages insured by FHA under Section 203(b) make it possible to reduce downpayments to as little as 3 percent. This is because FHA insurance allows borrowers to finance approximately 97 percent of the value of their home purchase through their mortgage, in some cases.

-- Many closing costs can be financed. With most conventional loans, the borrower must pay, at the time of purchase, closing costs (the many fees and charges associated with buying a home) equivalent to 2-3 percent of the price of the home. This program allows the borrower to finance many of these charges, thus reducing the up-front cost of buying a home. FHA mortgage insurance is not free: borrowers pay an up-front insurance premium (which may be financed) at the time of purchase, as well as monthly premiums that are not financed, but instead are added to the regular mortgage payment.

-- Some fees are limited. FHA rules impose limits on some of the fees that lenders may charge in making a loan. For example, the loan origination fee

charged by the lender for the administrative cost of processing the loan may not exceed one percent of the amount of the mortgage.

-- HUD sets limits on the amount that may be insured. To make sure that its programs serve low- and moderate-income people, FHA sets limits on the dollar value of the mortgage loan. The current limit ranges from \$81,548 to \$160,950. These figures vary over time and by place, depending on the cost of living and other factors (higher limits also exist for two- to four-family properties).

Eligible Grantees:

FHA-approved lending institutions, such as banks, mortgage companies, and savings and loan associations, can make insured Section 203(b) loans.

Eligible Customers:

Anyone intending to use the mortgaged property as their primary residence is eligible to apply for mortgage insurance. However, the program is not open to investors.

Application:

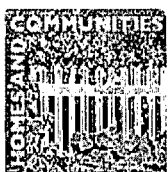
Any person able to meet the cash investment, the mortgage payments, and credit requirements can apply. The program is limited to owner-occupants. Applications are made through an FHA-approved lending institution. Most lenders who use this mortgage insurance product, however, make their requests through a provision known as Direct Endorsement, which authorizes them to consider applications without submitting paperwork to HUD. Borrowers can locate FHA-approved lenders through the searchable listing provided on HUD's homepage.

Technical Guidance:

This program is authorized under Section 203, National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709 (b), (i)). Program regulations are in 24 CFR Part 203. The program is administered by HUD's Office of Housing-Federal Housing Administration. Prospective lenders should contact the Director of Single Family Programs at the nearest HUD field office about participating in this program. Loan processing and administration for this and other FHA single-family mortgage insurance products are handled through one of four consolidated Single Family Homeownership Centers.

For More Information:

General—To learn more about this program and other financing options, homebuyers should contact a HUD-approved lender for a searchable listing of approved lenders nationwide, a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, or the toll-free FHA Mortgage Hotline, 1-800-CALLFHA. Research—A recent general study of this program and its place in today's mortgage finance system is HUD's Analysis of FHA's Single Family Mortgage Insurance Program (Office of Policy Development and Research, 1996), available from HUD USER, 1-800-245-2691.

[HOME](#)[FAQ](#)[SITE TOUR](#)[SEARCH/INDEX](#)[E-MAIL](#)

how hud's reverse mortgage program works

topics

[hud news](#)
[audience groups](#)
[own a home](#)
[rental help](#)
[homeless](#)
[your community](#)
[business](#)
[contracts](#)
[consumer info](#)
[complaints](#)
[about hud](#)
[reading room](#)
[handbooks/forms](#)
[kids](#)
[let's talk](#)
[local info](#)
[fed one-stops](#)

Homeowners 62 and older who have paid off their mortgages or have only small mortgage balances remaining are eligible to participate in HUD's reverse mortgage program. The program allows homeowners to borrow against the equity in their homes.

Homeowners can receive payments in a lump sum, on a monthly basis (for a fixed term or for as long as they live in the home), or on an occasional basis as a line of credit. Homeowners whose circumstances change can restructure their payment options.

Unlike ordinary home equity loans, a HUD reverse mortgage does not require repayment as long as the borrower lives in the home. Lenders recover their principal, plus interest, when the home is sold. The remaining value of the home goes to the homeowner or to his or her survivors. If the sales proceeds are insufficient to pay the amount owed, HUD will pay the lender the amount of the shortfall. The Federal Housing Administration, which is part of HUD, collects an insurance premium from all borrowers to provide this coverage.

The size of reverse mortgage loans is determined by the borrower's age, the interest rate, and the home's value. The older a borrower, the larger the percentage of the home's value that can be borrowed.

For example, based on a loan at today's interest rates of approximately 9 percent, a 65-year-old could borrow up to 26 percent of the home's value, a 75-year-old could borrow up to 39 percent of the home's value, and an 85-year-old could borrow up to 56 percent of the home's value.

There are no asset or income limitations on borrowers receiving HUD's reverse mortgages.

There are also no limits on the value of homes qualifying for a HUD reverse mortgage. However, the amount that may be borrowed is capped by the maximum FHA mortgage limit for the area, which varies from \$81,548 to \$160,950, depending on local housing costs. As a result, owners of higher-priced homes can't borrow any more than owners of homes valued at the FHA limit.

HUD's reverse mortgage program collects funds from insurance premiums charged to borrowers. Senior citizens are charged 2 percent of the home's value as an up-front payment plus one-half percent on the loan balance each year. These amounts are usually paid by the lender and charged to the borrower's principal balance.

FHA's reverse mortgage insurance makes HUD's program less expensive to borrowers than the smaller reverse mortgage programs run by private lenders without FHA insurance.



HUD HOME

PIH HOME

Q & A

SEARCH / INDEX

E-MAIL

Indian HOME Loan Guarantee (Section 184)

What is the 184 Loan Guarantee Program?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been instrumental in offering various loan products and services to increase the availability and affordability of homeownership. One example is the 184 Native American Loan Guarantee Program. Implemented in 1994 to provide homeownership opportunities to Native Americans wanting to own a home on tribal, individual trust, or Indian area land, the 184 program helps Native American homebuyers overcome a difficult obstacle - mortgaging land held in trust or land in an Indian area. Four years later, the program has been successful in guaranteeing mortgages to over 300 individuals, families, and tribes on tribal and Indian area land.

Eligible Activities

With a section 184 loan, an eligible borrower can:

- Purchase an existing home
- Rehabilitate an existing home
- Purchase and rehabilitate a home
- Construct a home (including manufactured housing).

The house must also meet standard quality requirements, construction and safety codes, and be a single family residence (1-4 units).

Who can apply?

A 184 loan is available nationwide, from Alaska to Florida. Native Alaskans, Indians, Tribes, and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) who wish to purchase, rehabilitate or build a home on Tribal or individual trust or land in an Indian area can apply for a 184 guaranteed mortgage. Loans are based on the borrower's demonstrated ability to repay the debt, and based on the property value, have down payment requirements as low as 1.25 percent. Individual or family borrowers must occupy the subject property as their principal residence.

The 184 loan, like other mortgage loans, requires the borrower to complete a loan application with a bank, lender, or mortgage company of the borrowers choice. Unlike other mortgages, the borrower:

1. must be an Alaskan or Native American; or a Tribe, TDHE, or IHA approved to participate in the 184 program; and
2. the land must be tribal trust land or in an Indian area (includes fee simple land that is in an Indian area).

Upon receipt of the loan application, the lender will review the borrower's employment, income, credit history, liabilities, and verify that the borrower has sufficient money to make a downpayment and pay other fees associated with the loan. An independent property appraisal is ordered to determine the value of the property. Underwriting standards are applied to help predict if the borrower will be able to adequately handle the monthly mortgage payments and thereby prevent a default on the note.

Partnering in Indian Country

Since 1994, the 184 Loan Guarantee Program has been used by Native Americans desiring the opportunity to own a home on their land. Supported by a 100% guarantee, over 34 lenders nationwide have used the 184 program as a mortgage investment tool in Native American communities. Offering a loan with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government produces a sense of security in the housing market and allows lenders to provide mortgages that they might not otherwise make. The loan follows established underwriting procedures and uses uniform mortgage instruments which enhances the sale of the mortgages on the secondary market.

Tribal Participation

In order for lenders to offer mortgages on trust restricted land, the tribe must:

1. Enact and agree to enforce foreclosure laws or agree to follow state foreclosure procedures

2. Enact and agree to enforce eviction procedures
3. Enact tribal law or follow state laws ensuring the 184 loan will be a first lien

Special Features of the 184 Loan

- Financeable 1% guarantee fee
- Exclusive program for Native Americans on Tribal trust or individual Indian area land
- Long term, fixed rate financing with loan to value ratios as high as 98.75%
- Closing costs may be paid with gifts, grants and secured loans
- Single close loans for construction (avoids short term construction loans)
- Nontraditional methods may be used to demonstrate borrower's credit and income

Program Enhancements

The program is now undergoing changes for enhanced customer service and streamline processing. The program will initiate "direct guarantee" in 1998. This will allow lenders the choice of underwriting the loan or forwarding it to the underwriting staff of the National Office of Native American Programs.

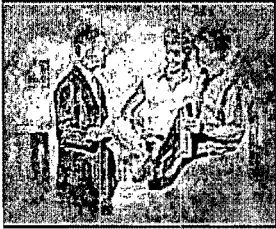
Through active marketing and on-site training, HUD intends to increase the number of participating lenders, Tribes, and Tribally Designated Housing Authorities. With the suspension of the FHA 248 program, the need for the 184 program will continue to grow. HUD plans to provide on-site and distance training on the 184 loan program. Program awareness is a step towards increased participation.

HUD is committed to increasing homeownership opportunities for Alaskan and Indian American communities. The 184 Program was developed to promote the interests of the borrower, the Tribe and the lender.

For more information on the HUD 184 Loan Guarantee program, contact one of the HUD ONAP offices or visit our website at <http://www.codetalk.fed.us/onaprob.html>

Other Links on the PIH web site related to Native American Programs:

- [Lender Information](#)
- [HUD Contacts](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Online Systems](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [CodeTalk](#)
- [NAHASDA](#)



Home Loan Guaranty Services

Veterans Benefits & Services

VA Home Loans - A quick guide for homebuyers and real est

Information on the Home Loan Program

[Am I Eligible for a VA Loan?](#)

[Property Management](#)

[Lenders & Servicers](#)

[Contact VA Loan Guaranty Service](#)

[Forms](#)

[Loan Guaranty HomePage](#)

[VBA HomePage](#)

[VA Privacy Policy/Notices](#)



◆ [Why a VA Loan?](#)

◆ [Five easy steps to a VA loan](#)

◆ [VA financing - a good deal for veterans](#)

◆ [What is a VA-guaranteed loan?](#)

◆ [What can a VA loan be used for?](#)

◆ [Who is eligible?](#)

◆ [Had a VA loan bef](#)

◆ [How to get a VA lo](#)

◆ [Requirements for](#)

◆ [Costs of obtaining](#)

◆ [Need more inform](#)

WHY A VA LOAN?

The more you know about our home loan program, the more you will realize how little getting a VA loan. These loans are often made without any downpayment at all, and interest rates than ordinarily available with other kinds of loans. Aside from the veteran and the VA-assigned appraisal, the application process is not much different than an loan. And if the lender is approved for automatic processing, as more and more lenders can be processed and closed by the lender without waiting for VA's approval of the c

Additionally, if the lender is approved under VA's Lender Appraisal Processing Program, review the appraisal completed by a VA-assigned appraiser and close the loan on the LAPP process can further speed the time to loan closing.

[Back to top](#)

FIVE EASY STEPS TO A VA LOAN

1. Apply for a Certificate of Eligibility.

A veteran who doesn't have a certificate can obtain one easily by completing **for a Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Benefits** and submitting it **Centers** with copies of your most recent discharge or separation papers covering since September 16, 1940, which show active duty dates and type of discharge.

2. Decide on a home the buyer wants to buy and sign a purchase agreement

3. Order an appraisal from VA. (Usually this is done by the lender.)

Most VA regional offices offer a "speed-up" telephone appraisal system. Call for details.

4. Apply to a mortgage lender for the loan.

While the appraisal is being done, the lender (mortgage company, savings and loan, etc.) is gathering credit and income information. If the lender is authorized by VA to do so upon receipt of the VA or LAPP appraised value determination, the loan can be closed without waiting for VA's review of the credit application. For loans that must be reviewed by the lender, the lender will send the application to the local VA office, which will notify the lender when the loan is approved.

5. Close the loan and the buyer moves in.

[Back to top](#)

VA FINANCING - A GOOD DEAL FOR VETERANS

More than 29 million veterans and service personnel are eligible for VA financing. If they have already used their loan benefits, it may be possible for them to buy homes again using remaining or restored loan entitlement.

Before arranging for a new mortgage to finance a home purchase, veterans should consider the advantages of VA home loans:

1. Most important consideration, no downpayment is required in most cases.
2. Loan maximum may be up to 100 percent of the VA-established reasonable value of the property. Secondary market requirements, however, loans generally may not exceed \$203,000.
3. Flexibility of negotiating interest rates with the lender.
4. No monthly mortgage insurance premium to pay.
5. Limitation on buyer's closing costs.
6. An appraisal which informs the buyer of property value.
7. Thirty year loans with a choice of repayment plans:
 - a. Traditional fixed payment (constant principal and interest; increases or decreases property taxes and homeowner's insurance coverage);
 - b. Graduated Payment Mortgage--GPM (low initial payments which gradually rise to the sixth year); and
 - c. In some areas, Growing Equity Mortgages--GEMs (gradually increasing payments applied to principal, resulting in an early payoff of the loan).
8. For most loans for new houses, construction is inspected at appropriate stages to approved plans, and a 1-year warranty is required from the builder that the house is built to approved plans and specifications. In those cases where the builder provides an acceptable plan, only a final inspection may be required.
9. An assumable mortgage, subject to VA approval of the assumer's credit.
10. Right to prepay loan without penalty.
11. VA performs personal loan servicing and offers financial counseling to help veterans during temporary financial difficulties.

[Back to top](#)

WHAT IS A VA-GUARANTEED LOAN?

These loans are made by a lender, such as a mortgage company, savings and loan association, or credit union. The lender protects the lender against loss if the payments are not made, and is intended to offer veterans loans with more favorable terms. The amount of guaranty on the loan depends on the amount and whether the veteran used some entitlement previously. With the current VA loan, a veteran who hasn't previously used the benefit may be able to obtain a VA loan up to the borrower's income level and the appraised value of the property. The local VA office provides details on guaranty and entitlement amounts.

[Back to top](#)

WHAT CAN A VA LOAN BE USED FOR?

1. To buy a home, including townhouse or condominium unit in a VA-approved project.
2. To build a home.
3. To simultaneously purchase and improve a home.
4. To improve a home by installing energy-related features such as solar or heat pumps, heaters, insulation, weather-stripping/ caulking, storm windows/doors or other improvements approved by the lender and VA. These features may be added to an existing dwelling or by refinancing a home owned and occupied by the veteran. Up to \$3,000 based on documented costs or up to \$6,000 if the increase in the value of the home offsets the expected reduction in utility costs. A refinancing loan may not exceed the current loan balance.

- appraised value plus the costs of the improvements. Check with a lender or V
5. To refinance an existing home loan up to 90 percent of the VA-established re refinance an existing VA loan to reduce the interest rate.
 6. To buy a manufactured home and/or lot.

[Back to top](#)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Veterans who served on active duty and were discharged under conditions other than World War II and later periods are eligible for VA loan benefits. World War II (September 1947), Korean conflict (June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955), and Vietnam era (August 1964 to May 7, 1975) veterans must have at least 90 days' service. Veterans with service only during peacetime military personnel must have had more than 180 days' active service. Veterans began after September 7, 1980, or officers with service beginning after October 16, 1980, have served at least 2 years.

Persian Gulf Conflict. Basically, reservists and National Guard members who were 2, 1990, served at least 90 days and were discharged honorably are eligible. VA reg assist with eligibility questions.

Members of the Selected Reserve, including National Guard, who are not otherwise completed 6 years of service and have been honorably discharged or have completed still serving may be eligible. The expanded eligibility for Reserves and National Guard September 30, 2003. Contact the local VA office to find out what is needed to establish pay a slightly higher funding fee than regular veterans. (See paragraph entitled "Costs")

[Back to top](#)

HAD A VA LOAN BEFORE?

Remaining Entitlement

Veterans who had a VA loan before may still have "remaining entitlement" to use for current amount of entitlement available to each eligible veteran is \$36,000. This was and has been increased over time by changes in the law. For example, a veteran who in 1974 would have used \$12,500 guaranty entitlement, the maximum then available paid off, the veteran could use the \$23,500 difference between the \$12,500 entitlement current maximum of \$36,000 to buy another home with VA financing. An additional \$ entitlement of \$50,750 is available for loans above \$144,000 to purchase or construct

Most lenders require that a combination of the guaranty entitlement and any cash do at least 25 percent of the reasonable value or sales price of the property, whichever is the veteran's \$23,500 remaining entitlement would probably meet a lender's minimum a no downpayment loan to buy a property valued at and selling for \$94,000. The veteran's downpayment with the remaining entitlement for a larger loan amount.

Restoration of Entitlement

Veterans can have previously-used entitlement "restored" to purchase another home

- The property purchased with the prior VA loan has been sold and the loan paid
- A qualified veteran-transferee (buyer) agrees to assume the VA loan and substitute for the same amount of entitlement originally used by the veteran seller. Remaining restoration of entitlement can be requested through the nearest VA office by call 1-800-541-26-1880.
- The entitlement may also be restored one time only if the veteran has repaid the loan and has not disposed of the property purchased with the prior VA loan.

[Back to top](#)

HOW TO GET A VA LOAN

VA Appraisal- Certificate of Reasonable Value

The CRV (certificate of reasonable value) is based on an appraiser's estimate of the purchased. Because the loan amount may not exceed the CRV, the first step in getting request an appraisal. Anyone (buyer, seller, real estate personnel or lender) can request completing VA Form 26-1805, Request for Determination of Reasonable Value. After either be mailed to the Loan Guaranty Division at the nearest VA office for processing requested by telephoning the Loan Guaranty Division for assignment of an appraiser be contacted for information concerning its assignment procedures. The appraiser will services to the requester according to a fee schedule approved by VA. To simplify the (Department of Housing and Urban Development/Federal Housing Administration) use forms. Also, if the property was recently appraised under the HUD procedure, under circumstances, the HUD conditional commitment can be converted to a VA CRV. This is how this is done.

It is important to recognize that while the VA appraisal estimates the value of the property and does not guarantee that the house is free of defects. Homebuyers should be on the property themselves, or to hire a reputable inspection firm to help in this area. Verify the condition of the property.

Application

The application process for VA financing is no different from any other type of loan. The form is the same as that used for HUD/FHA and conventional loans. The mortgage lender income and assets, and obtains a credit report to see that other obligations are being and the appraised value of the property is enough to cover the loan needed, the lender then close the loan under VA's automatic procedure. Only about 10 percent of VA loans submitted to a VA office for approval before closing.

[Back to top](#)

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOAN APPROVAL

To obtain a VA loan, the law requires that:

1. The applicant must be an eligible veteran who has available entitlement.
2. The loan must be for an eligible purpose.
3. The veteran must occupy or intend to occupy the property as a home within a year after closing the loan.
4. The veteran must be a satisfactory credit risk.
5. The income of the veteran and spouse, if any, must be shown to be stable and mortgage payments, cover the costs of owning a home, take care of other obligations and have enough left over for family support.

An experienced mortgage lender will be able to discuss specific income and other questions.

[Back to top](#)

COSTS OF OBTAINING A VA LOAN

Funding Fee

A basic funding fee of 2.0 percent must be paid to VA by all but certain exempt veterans. 5 percent or more will reduce the fee to 1.5 percent and a 10 percent downpayment will

A funding fee of 2.75 percent must be paid by all eligible Reserve/National Guard in 5 percent or more will reduce the fee to 2.25 percent and a 10 percent downpayment percent.

The funding fee for loans to refinance an existing VA home loan with a new VA home interest rate is 0.5 percent.

Veterans who are using entitlement for a second or subsequent time who do not make at least 5 percent are charged a funding fee of 3 percent.

NOTE: For all VA home loans, the funding fee may be paid in cash or it may be included in the loan.

Other Closing Costs

Reasonable closing costs may be charged by the lender. These costs may not be in following items may be paid by the veteran purchaser, the seller, or shared. Closing lenders and also throughout the nation because of differing local laws and customs.

- VA appraisal
- Credit report
- Loan origination fee (usually 1 percent of the loan)
- Discount points
- Title search and title insurance
- Recording fees
- State and/or local transfer taxes, if applicable
- Survey

No commissions, brokerage fees or "buyer broker" fees may be charged to the vete

[Back to top](#)

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Veterans seeking more detailed information concerning the VA home loan program 26-4, VA-Guaranteed Home Loans for Veterans, or VA Pamphlet 26-6, To the Home nearest VA office. Loan Guaranty personnel at that office will also be pleased to ans provide any other assistance they can.

Remember, VA-guaranteed financing is a benefit which Congress intended eligible v are a veteran homebuyer or know of one, it makes sense to look into the VA loan pr finance a home purchase.